

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Quality Bearing Service

#### Nevada Management Assistance Partnership

#### Quality Bearing Service Pursues Lean Initiative

**Client Profile:**

Quality Bearing Service (QBS), a division of Amsted Industries, re-manufactures freight and locomotive tapered roller bearings for railroads. Located in Sparks, Nevada, the company employs less than 100 people.

**Situation:**

QBS decided to pursue a lean manufacturing initiative and contacted the Nevada Manufacturing Assistance Partnership (MAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance. QBS asked MAP to offer lean training to management representatives from three U.S. facilities at the Sparks plant. These employees would then take these skills and communicate them to other employees at their respective facilities.

**Solution:**

MAP kicked off lean initiative with a Lean 101 workshop for 12 QBS management representatives. Following this successful workshop, MAP brought in lean manufacturing consultant Gary Conner to conduct seven one-day sessions at the QBS facility in Sparks. These in-plant sessions included courses in value stream mapping, workplace organization (or 5S), set-up reduction, workload balancing, cellular flow, total productive maintenance, and leadership training.

**Results:**

- \* Trained 12 company managers.
- \* Improved internal plant organization and material flow efficiency.
- \* Reduced inventory.
- \* Improved worker productivity.
- \* Reduced costs.

**Testimonial:**

"[The Nevada Manufacturing Assistance Partnership] made a simple process sound simple."

Dave Liming, Director of Operations